IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-27 (Presently canceled)

28. (Newly presented) An immortalised human cell-line expressing tissue specific function wherein the cells also comprise at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell-line, for use in transplantation

29. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 28 obtained from immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells.

30. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 28, wherein the cells express a mature differentiated phenotype.

31. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 28, wherein the cell-line is a hypertrophic chondrocyte cell-line, bone marrow stromal cell-line or a neural cell-line.

32. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 28 immortalised using an immortalising agent.

33. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 32 wherein the immortalising agent is an immortalising gene.

34. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 33 wherein the immortalising gene is an oncogene.

35. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 34 wherein the immortalising gene is a viral oncogene.

36. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 33 wherein the immortalizing agent is a construct.

37. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 36 wherein the construct is a retroviral construct.

38. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 33 wherein the gene includes or has associated therewith a control means.

39. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 38 wherein the control means is responsive to environmental conditions.

40. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 38 wherein the immortalising agent and control means are integrated.

41. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 40 wherein the integrated immortalisation agent and control means comprise a temperature sensitive entity.

42. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 41 wherein the temperature sensitive entity is an oncogene.

43. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 34 wherein the oncogene is myc, ras, or src.

44. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 34 wherein the immortalising gene is SV40 T antigen.

45. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 29 wherein the immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells are obtained from CNS.

46. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 29 wherein the immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells are obtained from a region of the CNS selected from the group consisting of cortex, striatum, hypothalamus, rostroventral mesencephalon, caudoventral mesencephalon, medullary brainstem or the dorsal or ventral horns of the spinal cord.

47. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 28 wherein the safety means is a gene.

48. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 47 wherein the gene is viral TK.

49. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 47, wherein the gene is co-expressed with the immortalising oncogene.

50. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 47 wherein the gene is placed downstream of the immortalising oncogene.

51. (Newly presented) An immortalised cell-line according to claim 50 wherein the gene is placed 3' to an IRES.

52. (Newly presented) A method of treating an individual, said method comprising administering to the individual an immortalised human cell-line expressing tissue specific function, wherein the immortalised human cell-line further comprises at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the immortalised human cell-line, and wherein said immortalised human cell-line is administered to said individual as a cell transplant for treating said individual.

53. (Newly presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the cell-line is obtained from immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells.

54. (Newly presented) A homogeneous population of immortalised human cells expressing tissue specific function.

55. (Newly presented) A homogeneous population of cells according to claim 54, wherein the cells also comprise at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cells.

56. (Newly presented) A homogeneous population of cells according to claim 55, for use in transplantation.

57. (Newly presented) A human undifferentiated cell of a given tissue type wherein the undifferentiated cell has been immortalised using an immortalising gene and wherein the cell also comprises at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell.

58. (Newly presented) A method of generating an immortalised human undifferentiated cell-line with a safety means for selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell-line comprising

immortalising an undifferentiated cell of a given tissue type, wherein the undifferentiated cell is immortalised using an immortalising gene and wherein the cell also comprises at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell.

59. (Newly presented) A method of generating an immortalised human differentiated cell-line with a safety means for selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell-line comprising:

a. immortalising an undifferentiated cell of a given tissue type, wherein the undifferentiated cell is immortalised using an immortalising gene and wherein the immortalised cell also comprises at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell-line.

b. culturing the immortalised cell in order to produce a homogeneous population of human cells,

c. allowing the cell to differentiate in the presence of a differentiating agent.

60. (Newly presented) A method according to claim 59 wherein the process of allowing differentiation of the cells involves exposure of the cells to a differentiating agent.

61. (Newly presented) A method according to claim 60 wherein the differentiating agent is selected from the group consisting of a ciliary neurotrophic factor, a glial cell neurotrophic factor, a brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a nerve growth factor, a fibroblast growth factor, an epidermal growth factor, a platelet-derived growth factor, retinoic acid, and sera.

62. (Newly presented) A method according to claim 58 wherein transcription of the immortalising gene also results in transcription of the safety means.

63. (Newly presented) Use of immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells to produce terminally differentiated human cell lines that express tissue-specific functions.

64. (Newly presented) Use of immature, undifferentiated or precursor cells according to claim 63, wherein the cells also comprise at least one safety means which enables selective disabling and/or destruction of the cell-line.

65. (Newly presented) A method according to claim 59 wherein transcription of the immortalising gene also results in transcription of the safety means.